In the Specification:

At page 3, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 3 and extending to line 13, with the following paragraph:

Thus, in accordance with the invention there are provided isolated and recombinant BCl-B nucleic acids. In one embodiment, a BCl-B nucleic acid includes a polynucleotide sequence having at least about 70% identity to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the sequence is distinct from EST Accession no. AA098865, which is TCCGCCTACCTCGGCTACCCCGGGAACCGCTTCGAGCTGGTGGCGCTGATGG CGGATTCCGTGCTCTCCGACAGCCCCGGCCCCACCTGGGAGNAGTGGTGACG CTCGTGACCTTCGCAGGGACGCTGCT (SEQ ID NO: 37). In additional embodiments, a Bcl-B nucleic acid includes a polynucleotide sequence having at least about 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the sequence is distinct from EST Accession no. AA098865. In still other embodiments, a Bcl-B nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that modulates apoptosis (e.g., a sequence set forth or including SEQ ID NO:2). Polynucleotide sequences included in the invention can be of any size, for example, a sequence less than about 50 kB, less than about 25 kB, less than about 10 kB, less than about 5 kB, less than about 2.5 kB, or between about 2.5 kB and 1kB, 1kB and 0.5 kB, 0.5 kB and 0.25 kB, and 0.1 kB and 15 base pairs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29 and extending to page 6, line 8 with the following replacement paragraph:

Invention nucleic acids, polypeptides, antibodies and other compositions set forth herein may be expressed in plants. The invention therefore provides plants, plant parts and seeds that can express Bcl-B nucleic acids, polypeptides and antibodies. In one embodiment, a transgenic plant, plant part or seed includes a nucleic acid sequence having at least about 70% identity to SEQ ID NO:1. In another embodiment, a transgenic plant, plant part or seed includes a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide that modulates

apoptosis. In one aspect, at least a portion of the plant exhibits a decreased level of senescence. In yet another embodiment, a transgenic plant, plant part or seed is resistant to abiotic insult, such as an insult induced by high moisture, low moisture, salinity, nutrient deficiency, air pollution, high temperature, low temperature, soil toxicity, herbicide or insecticide, or biotic insult, such as an insult induced by a plant pathogen (e.g., a virus, fungus, bacteria or [[nemotode]] nematode.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 18 and extending to page 8, line 22 with the following replacement paragraph:

Invention nucleic acids, polypeptides, antibodies, including cells, may be included in pharmaceutical formulations. Thus, the invention additionally provides isolated or recombinant Bcl-B nucleic acids, polypeptides, antibodies and cells in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Pharmaceutical carriers include those suitable for particular routes of administration including, for example, intracranial, intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, via intubation, inhalation, oral, topical (~~ocular~~ ocular or nasal), or intra-cavity (rectal or vaginal).

Please delete the paragraph starting at line 20 of page 13 and extending to line 25 of page 13 and replace it with the following replacement paragraph:

Bcl-B was initially identified using a genetic screen of a human liver library. A TBLASTN search of the human Expressed Sequence Tag (EST) database using the amino-acid sequence of the mouse Boo/Diva as a query identified partial cDNA having homology with Boo. A human EST clone (Accession no. AA098865) which is TCCGCCTACCTCGGCTACCCCGGGAACCGCTTCGAGCTGGTGGCGCTGATGG CGGATTCCGTGCTCTCCGACAGCCCCGGCCCCACCTGGGAGNAGTGGTGACG CTCGTGACCTTCGCAGGGACGCTGCT (SEQ ID NO: 37), was obtained and sequenced in its entirety, revealing an open reading frame (ORF) encompassing the last 151 residues of a protein with homology to Boo (Bcl-B).

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 24 and extending to page 27, line 5, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph:

As used herein, the term "bind" or "binding" means that the components referred to specifically interact with each other at a molecular level. Direct binding means physical contact between the components. Indirect binding means binding to one or more components that bind. Thus, the two components need not physically contact each other in order to bind as they may be a part of [[a]] an oligomeric complex in which an intermediary component binds between the two components. Indirect or direct binding may be relatively stable, such as that which occurs between an antibody and an antigen or be less stable, *e.g.* a dissociation constant (K_D) of less than about [[10_{-6}]] 10^{-6}. Binding may also be transient, such as the binding that occurs between a transcription factor and DNA for transcription initiation, which does not occur in the absence of transcription. "Specific binding" is where the binding is selective between the components. Specific binding can be detected using methods known in the art, for example, by immunoprecipitation, affinity chromatography, gel shift assays, gene expression assays, etc. "Specific" and "non-specific" binding can be distinguished using appropriate controls.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 19 and extending to page 45, line 2, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph:

Pharmaceutical formulations suitable for injection include sterile aqueous solutions (where water soluble) or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersion. For intravenous administration, suitable carriers include physiological saline, bacteriostatic water, Cremophor EL™ (BASF, Parsippany, NJ) or phosphate buffered saline (PBS). The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing for example, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the

like), and suitable mixtures thereof. Fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion and by the use of surfactants. Prevention of the action of microorganisms can be achieved by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, ascorbic acid, thimerosal, an the like. Isotonic agents, for example, sugars, polyalcohols such as ~~manitol~~ mannitol, sorbitol, sodijm chloride can be included in the composition. Prolonged absorption of injetable formulations can be achieved by including an agent that delays absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate or gelatin.